The ORIGIN of STRETCH ARMSTRONG

STRETCH ARMSTRONG'S FATHER DISAPPEARED WHEN STRETCH WAS ONLY A BABY! HE HAS NEVER STOPPED LOOKING FOR CLUES! WAS DR. ARMSTRONG KIDNAPPED — OR WORSE?! OR COULD HE BE WORKING SECRETLY FOR THE GOVERNMENT?
STRETCH HAD TO KNOW...
ALWAYS A BIT KLUTZY, STRETCH KNOCKED OVER HIS SODA WHILE SEARCHING THROUGH HIS FATHER'S DESK...
WHAT'S THIS? A SECRET COMPARTMENT. HMM...THIS IS A JOURNAL,
...BY MY FATHER!!
JOURNAL
SODA
THE JOURNAL WAS FROM TWENTY YEARS AGO WHEN STRETCH'S FATHER VANISHED WHILE WORKING AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST IN THE TROPICAL RAINFOREST!
....WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE THIS SECTION OF FOREST FROM THE GREEDY INDUSTRIALIST VIRGIL HEX' DESTRUCTION! HE PLANS ON CUTTING AND BURNING SEVERAL ACRES TO BUILD A TEXTILE PLANT!

IF ONLY WE COULD FIND SOMETHING.... ANYTHING, THAT WOULD BE RARE ENOUGH AND IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO ALLOW ME TO GET AN INJUNCTION!!
DR. ARMSTRONG YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THIS!!
RAOUL, THIS IS AMAZING! THESE RUBBER TREES ARE ALMOST... PHOSPHORESCENT THE WAY THEY GLOW— I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!!!
AND IT'S PRODUCING SOME SORT OF SAP SEE HOW IT BUBBLES OUT? AND LOOK— IT HAS RUBBER-LIKE PROPERTIES, YET RETAINS A FLUID FORM!!
VERY EXTRAORDINARY! LET'S BRING SOME SAMPLES BACK TO THE LAB...!! THIS COULD BE OUR BREAK!!
DR. ARMSTRONG AND HIS NATIVE AMAZONIAN ASSISTANT RAOUL CRUZADO CALLED THE ODDLY GLOWING MATERIAL "FLUBBERITUS AMAZONIUS" (NICKNAMED FLUBBER FOR FLUID RUBBER) AND PLANNED TO GET THE STOP-WORK ORDER!
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FIVE DAYS LATER DR. ARMSTRONG HEARD NOISE COMING FROM THE LAB AND ENTERED TO INVESTIGATE!
LAB
HE HAD FOUND THAT VIRGIL HEX' HENCHMAN HARI KUMBAKA HAD BROKEN IN TO STEAL THE FLUBBER!
FOONT!
SWAK!
DANGER EXPLOSIVE
DANGER
FLUBBER EXTRACT
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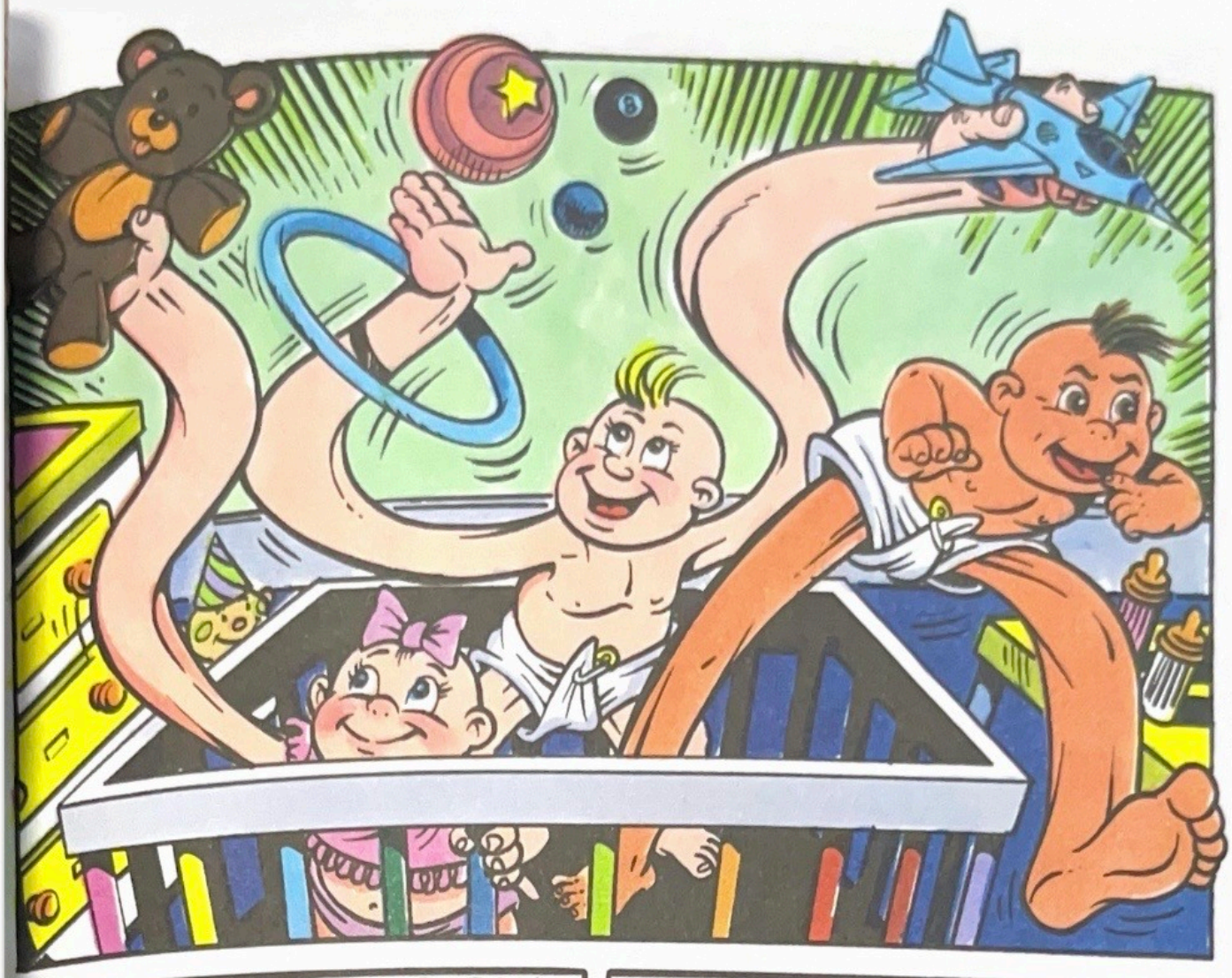
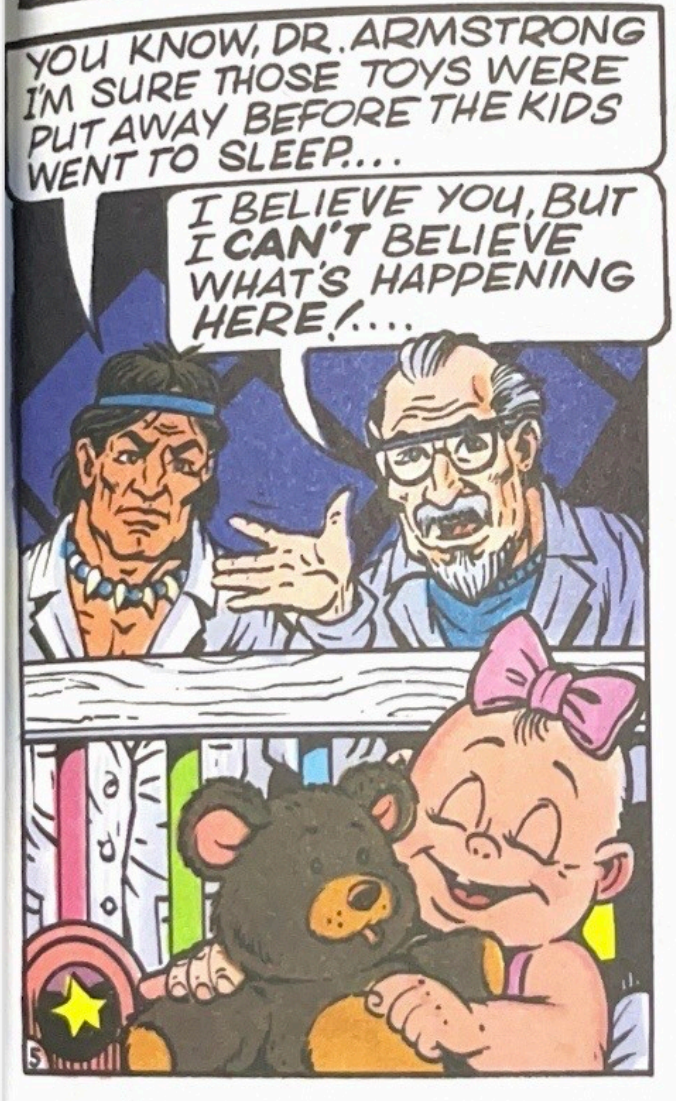
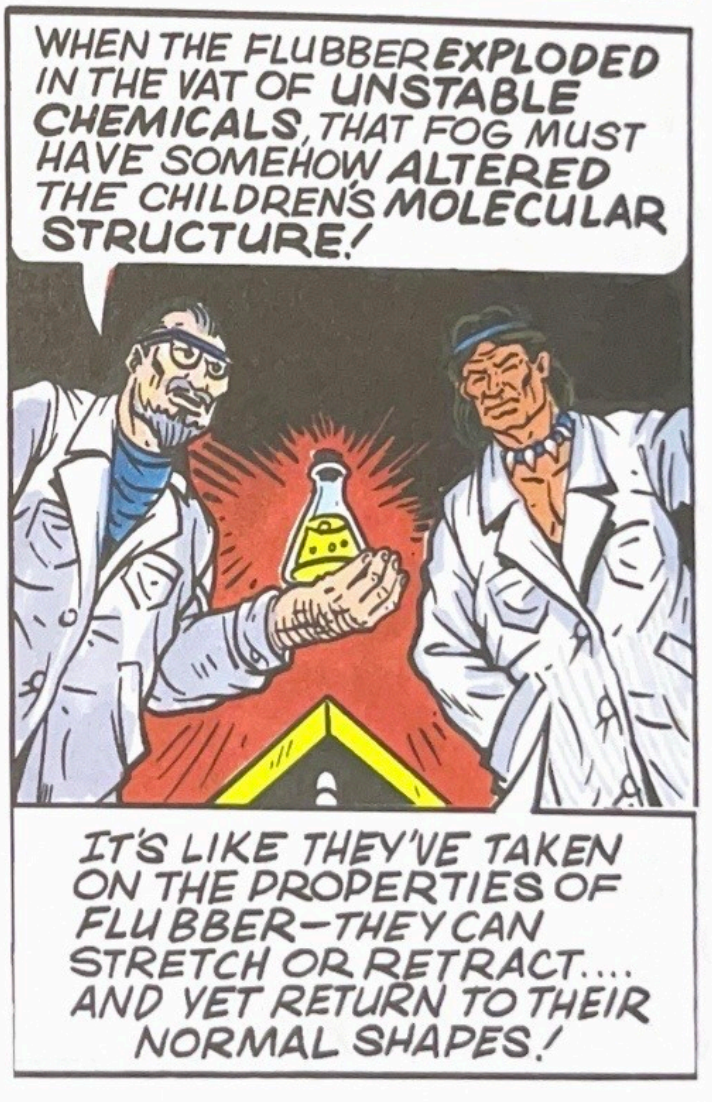
KA-BOOM!
THE CHILDREN!!
THE EXPLOSION UNLEASHED A FOG THAT DRIFTED TOWARDS THE NURSERY....
LAB NURSERY

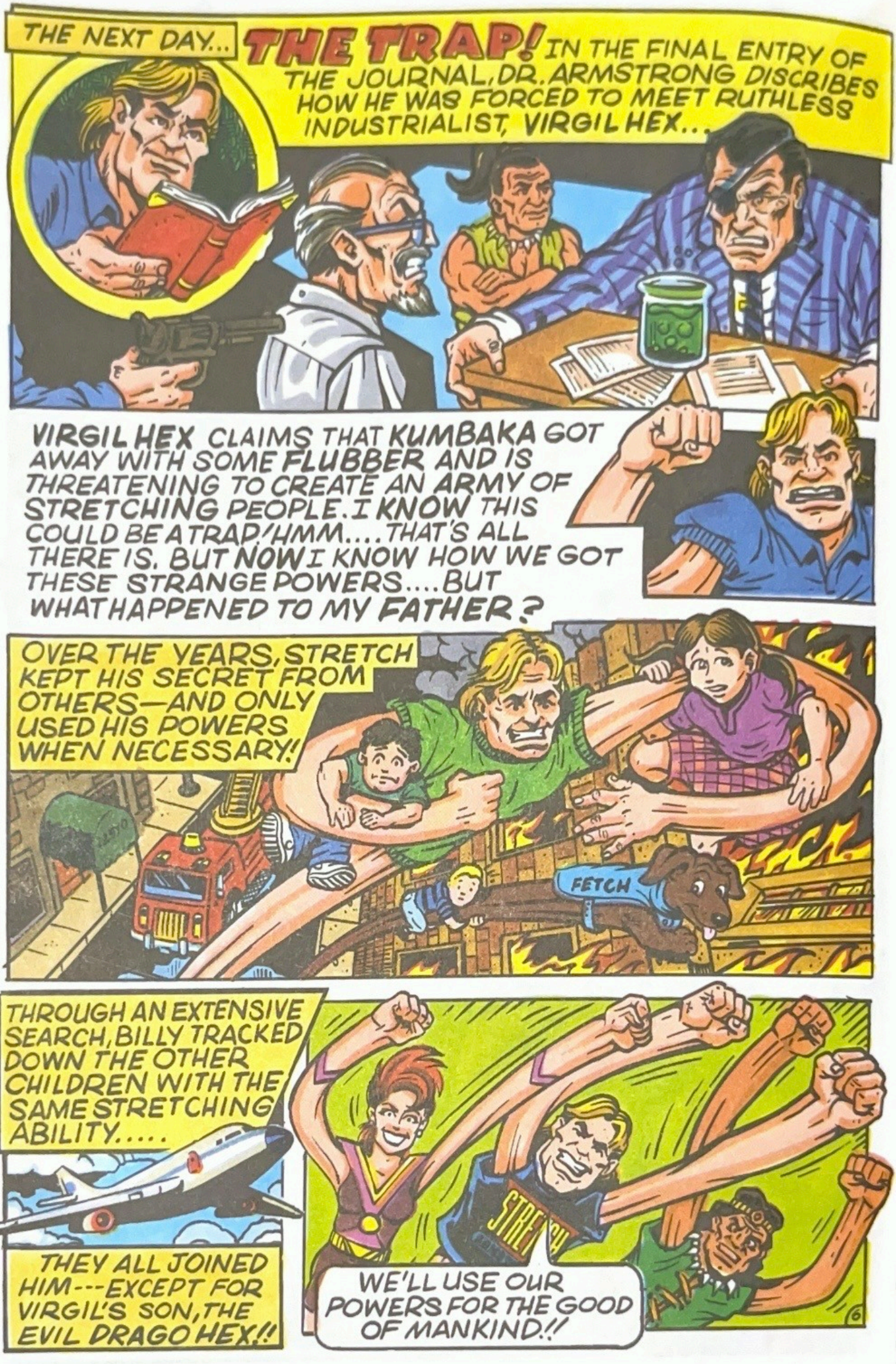
INSIDE THE NURSERY RESTS DR. ARMSTRONG'S SON BILLY, RAOUL'S SON, AND EVEN THE SON OF VIRGIL HEX! THE DAUGHTER OF A LAB ASSISTANT AND THE DR.'S PUPPY "FETCH" LIE IN ANOTHER BED... AS THE KIDS SLEEP, THE FOG CREEPS IN TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES...
...FOREVER!!

DAYS LATER...
DR. ARMSTRONG AND RAOUL KEPT THE CHILDREN UNDER CLOSE OBSERVATION—AND NOTICED SOME ODD THINGS!!!




YOU KNOW, DR. ARMSTRONG I'M SURE THOSE TOYS WERE PUT AWAY BEFORE THE KIDS WENT TO SLEEP....
I BELIEVE YOU, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE!....


WHEN THE FLUBBER EXPLODED IN THE VAT OF UNSTABLE CHEMICALS, THAT FOG MUST HAVE SOMEHOW ALTERED THE CHILDREN'S MOLECULAR STRUCTURE!
IT'S LIKE THEY'VE TAKEN ON THE PROPERTIES OF FLUBBER—THEY CAN STRETCH OR RETRACT.... AND YET RETURN TO THEIR NORMAL SHAPES!


THE NEXT DAY...
THE TRAP! IN THE FINAL ENTRY OF THE JOURNAL, DR. ARMSTRONG DISCRIBES HOW HE WAS FORCED TO MEET RUTHLESS INDUSTRIALIST, VIRGIL HEX...
VIRGIL HEX CLAIMS THAT KUMBAKA GOT AWAY WITH SOME FLUBBER AND IS THREATENING TO CREATE AN ARMY OF STRETCHING PEOPLE. I KNOW THIS COULD BE A TRAP! HMM.... THAT'S ALL THERE IS. BUT NOW I KNOW HOW WE GOT THESE STRANGE POWERS.... BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FATHER?
OVER THE YEARS, STRETCH KEPT HIS SECRET FROM OTHERS—AND ONLY USED HIS POWERS WHEN NECESSARY!
FETCH
THROUGH AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH, BILLY TRACKED DOWN THE OTHER CHILDREN WITH THE SAME STRETCHING ABILITY.....
THEY ALL JOINED HIM---EXCEPT FOR VIRGIL'S SON, THE EVIL DRAGO HEX!!
WE'LL USE OUR POWERS FOR THE GOOD OF MANKIND!!
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THEY FORMED R.E.A.C.H. AND GAVE THEMSELVES CODE NAMES....
I'M STRETCH ARMSTRONG !!!
WELL, SINCE YOU ALL TALK ABOUT HOW MUCH I WHINE AND COMPLAIN, WHY DON'T YOU CALL ME KVETCH?
STRETCH
THAT'S PERFECT FOR YOU!
MELISSA (A DOCTOR IN SPORTS MEDICINE) WAS FLEX, AND STRETCH'S DOG FETCH WAS EVEN ALLOWED TO JOIN IN!
ARF ARF!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THAT VILLAIN DRAGO!!
HE'S AS GREEDY AS HIS FATHER VIRGIL HEX!!
STRETCH'S VOW FOR JUSTICE!
I'LL NEVER STOP LOOKING FOR DAD.... AND R.E.A.C.H.* WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE BATTLE OUR FATHERS STARTED: TO PROTECT EARTH FROM EVIL-DOERS.... AND TO STOP THAT MALEVOLENT FIEND DRAGO!!
STRETCH
*RUBBER ENERGIZED ANTI-CRIME HEROS!
END
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